

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101233
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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:GWCHAPMAN:RAH
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
EUR/P:WGEHRON
PA/PRS:KBROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 101233

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TURKISH VIOLATION OF CYPRIOT AIR SPACE

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT OF APRIL
19 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING:

BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION:EVER SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS NEW POLICY
FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, WHICH WAS TO IMPROVE THE
POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, WE HAVE
SEEN EVERY GREEK POLITICAL LEADER COME OUT AGAINST IT.
TURKISH AIRPLANES OVERFLY CYPRUS; THE CYPRIOT PRESIDENT
HAS TODAY, ONE OR TWO HOURS AGO, REJECTED THE TURKISH
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CYPRIOT PROPOSALS. COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME HOW AN
IMPROVEMENT HAS OCCURRED SINCE THE POLICY WAS INTRODUCED?

A. THERE IS ONLY ONE SPECIFIC ASPECT OF YOUR QUESTION
THAT I AM IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS FOR YOU TODAY AND THAT
IS THE MATTER OF THE OVERFLIGHTS. I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON
THAT FOR YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE.

Q. OH, YES, THANK YOU.

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS HAS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION IN NICOSIA AND TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE FACT THAT TWO TURKISH MILITARY AIRCRAFT FLEW AT A LOW ALTITUDE NEAR THE DEMARCATION LINE IN CYPRUS YESTERDAY MORNING. APPARENTLY THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT CROSS THE DEMARCATION LINE.

WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THAT THESE FLIGHTS WERE PART OF A ROUTINE. ANNUALLY-SCHEDULED MILITARY EXERCISE AND THAT SIMILAR FLIGHTS OCCURRED AT ABOUT THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

WE UNDERSTAND FURTHER THAT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THE FLIGHTS WAS GIVEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE ON CYPRUS WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE CYPRUS NATIONAL GUARD BE INFORMED.

NOW AS TO YOUR LARGER QUESTION ABOUT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT ANY MORE TODAY THAN I WAS SEVERAL DAYS AGO WHEN YOU ASKED IT. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PRESS RELEASES, ALLEGATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: GWCHAPMAN:RAH
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Film Number: D780168-0712
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780434/aaaabcpw.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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Subject: ALLEGED TURKISH VIOLATION OF CYPRIOT AIR SPACE FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT OF APRIL 19 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU, US
To: NICOSIA
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